

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Ricky Mitchell)	****Proposed****
Eight Mile, Mobile County, Alabama)	ADMINISTRATIVE
)	ORDER NO: 17-____-AP
)	

FINDINGS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Environmental Management Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22- 22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (hereinafter, the “Department” or “ADEM”) Administrative Code of Regulations (hereinafter, “ADEM Admin. Code R.”) promulgated pursuant thereto, and the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, as amended, the Department makes the following FINDINGS:

1. Ricky Mitchell (hereinafter, “Mitchell”) operates a lumber recycling business on property he owns, located in Eight Mile, Mobile County, Alabama.
2. The Department is a duly constituted department of the State of Alabama pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).
3. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-4(n) (2006 Rplc. Vol.), the Department is the state air pollution control agency for the purposes of the federal Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7401 to 7671q, as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of the Alabama Air Pollution Control Act, Ala. Code §§ 22-28-1 to 22-28-23 (2006 Rplc. Vol.).

4. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1 states that “....open burning must take place on the property on which the combustible fuel originates.”

5. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4 states that “Only vegetation and untreated wood may be burned. It is unauthorized to open burn heavy oils, asphalt products, plastics, vinyl materials, insulation, paper, cardboard, natural or synthetic rubber, salvage or scrap materials, chemicals, garbage, treated or painted wood, or any trash.”

6. ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)(d) states that “Permission to open burn under the provision of this paragraph is revoked during the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October in Baldwin, DeKalb, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Russell, Shelby, and Talladega Counties.

7. On July 27, 2016, the Department received a complaint of un-authorized open burning was being conducted on property owned by Mitchell, located at the end of Carroll Road, Eight Mile, Alabama (Mobile County Parcel ID: 230623000019) (hereinafter, the “Site”).

8. On August 4, 2016, Department personnel conducted an investigation of the Site and did not observe any open burning. Mitchell admitted to the Department inspector that he had previously burned imported stumps on the property. The ADEM open burning regulations were explained to Mitchell, and he was given a copy of the regulations. He stated to the Inspector that he would no longer conduct illegal open burning.

9. On August 16, 2016, Department personnel conducted an investigation of the Site for the presence of an un-authorized dump. During the inspection, the Inspector noted that the operators were conducting illegal open burning of imported debris in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2) and appeared to be burying the remnants.

10. On September 28, 2016, the Department conducted a follow-up inspection of the Site and observed illegal open burning of imported debris being conducted in violation of ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-3-3-.01(2)

11. Pursuant to Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, in determining the amount of any penalty, the Department must give consideration to the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment and any threat to the health or safety of the public; the standard of care manifested by such person; the economic benefit which delayed compliance may confer upon such person; the nature, extent and degree of success of such person's efforts to minimize or mitigate the effects of such violation upon the environment; such person's history of previous violations; and the ability of such person to pay such penalty. Any civil penalty assessed pursuant to this authority shall not exceed \$25,000.00 for each violation, provided however, that the total penalty assessed in an order issued by the Department shall not exceed \$250,000.00. Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. In arriving at this civil penalty, the Department has considered the following:

A. SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION: Mitchell repeatedly conducted illegal open burning at the Site and did so during the burn ban. The Department considers these violations to be serious.

B. THE STANDARD OF CARE: There appeared to be no care taken by Mitchell to comply with the applicable requirements of the ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1, 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4, and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

C. ECONOMIC BENEFIT WHICH DELAYED COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE CONFERRED: Mitchell likely derived economic benefit by not legally disposing of debris and garbage.

D. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE OR MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE VIOLATION UPON THE ENVIRONMENT: There were no efforts by Mitchell to mitigate possible effects of these violations upon the environment.

E. HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS: Mitchell has no previous history of violations with the Department for illegal open burning.

F. THE ABILITY TO PAY: Mitchell has not alleged an inability to pay the civil penalty.

G. OTHER FACTORS: The Department has carefully considered the six statutory penalty factors enumerated in Ala. Code § 22-22A-5(18)c., *as amended*, as well as the need for timely and effective enforcement, and has concluded that a civil penalty herein is appropriate (*See* "Attachment A", which is hereby incorporated into these Findings.)

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing FINDINGS and pursuant to Ala. Code §§22-22A-5(10), 22-22A-5(12), 22-22-5(18), and 22-28-18 (2006 Rplc. Vol.), it is hereby ORDERED:

A. That, not later than forty-five days after the issuance of this Order, Mitchell shall pay to the Department a civil penalty in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the violations cited herein. Said penalty shall be made payable to the Alabama Department of Environment Management by certified or cashier's check and shall be submitted to:

Office of General Counsel
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

B. That, immediately upon receipt of this Order and continuing thereafter, Mitchell shall ensure immediate and future compliance with ADEM Admin. Code rs. 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)1, 335-3-3-.01(2)(b)4, and 335-3-3-.01(2)(d).

C. That, should any provision of this Order be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction or the Environmental Management Commission to be inconsistent with Federal or State law and therefore unenforceable, the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

D. Except as otherwise set forth herein, this Order is not and shall not be interpreted to be a permit or modification of an existing permit under federal, State or local law, and shall not be construed to waive or relieve Mitchell of his obligations to comply in the future with any permit or other written direction from the Department.

E. That, issuance of this Administrative Order does not preclude the Department from seeking criminal fines or other appropriate sanctions or relief against Mitchell for the violations cited herein.

F. That, failure to comply with the provisions of this Administrative Order shall constitute cause for commencement of legal action by the Department against Mitchell for recovery of additional civil penalties, criminal fines, or other appropriate sanctions or relief.

ORDERED and ISSUED this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Lance R. LeFleur, Director
Alabama Department of Environmental
Management
1400 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2059
(334) 271-7700

ATTACHMENT A

Ricky Mitchell
Eight Mile, Mobile County, AL

Violation*	Number of Violations*	Seriousness of Violation*	Standard of Care*	History of Previous Violations*	
Illegal open burning	2	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0	
Burning during the burn ban	2	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0	
					Total of Three Factors
TOTAL PER FACTOR		\$4,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$6,000

Adjustments to Amount of Initial Penalty	
Mitigating Factors (-)	
Ability to Pay (-)	
Other Factors (+/-)	
Total Adjustments (+/-) <i>Enter at Right</i>	\$0

Economic Benefit (+)	\$1,500
Amount of Initial Penalty	\$7,500
Total Adjustments (+/-)	\$0
FINAL PENALTY	\$7,500.00

Footnotes

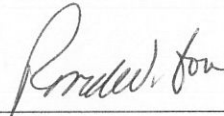
* See the "Department's Contentions" portion of the Order for a detailed description of each violation and the penalty factors.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ronald W. Gore, do hereby certify that I have served this Proposed Administrative Order upon the person(s) listed below by sending the same, postage paid, through the United States Mail **91 7108 2133 3936 7157 8828** with instructions to forward and return receipt, to:

Ricky Mitchell
6567 Evelyn Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36608

DONE this the ^{tb}18 day of November, 2016.



Ronald W. Gore
Chief - Air Division
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management